

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 117

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to recognize Hillsboro Elementary-Middle School upon being named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this body should pause to pay tribute to those educational institutions that, through the natural talents and unflagging commitment to academic excellence evidenced by their administration, faculty, staff, and students, have earned national accolades; and

WHEREAS, such an exemplary institution is Hillsboro Elementary-Middle School in Leiper's Fork, which was recently recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School; and

WHEREAS, the National Blue Ribbon School honor is awarded only to those schools whose students have attained high achievement scores or have closed achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this prestigious award, the school has been recognized the past two years as a Tennessee Reward School, an honor that recognizes the top five percent of schools in Tennessee in Performance and Growth, and was named a finalist for the 2014 Tennessee SCORE (State Collaborative on Reforming Education) Prize; and

WHEREAS, under the dynamic leadership of Principal Kari Miller, the faculty, administration, and staff at Hillsboro Elementary-Middle School have built an environment that ensures students have the very best atmosphere for learning; and

WHEREAS, after seeing plummeting test scores, Hillsboro Elementary-Middle School has spent the past five years developing a new culture, one focused on the individual success of each student, which strives to develop the whole child; and

WHEREAS, a finely honed master schedule, leveled classes, bell-to-bell instruction, after-school tutoring, and focused professional development create a rigorous educational environment that maximizes student learning and capitalizes on the unique qualities of this exceptional school; and

WHEREAS, Hillsboro Elementary-Middle School's small size allows a larger percentage of students to participate in arts and athletics and offers the undivided attention of caring teachers and coaches; and

WHEREAS, the school's selection as a Blue Ribbon School is a tremendous source of pride for the administration, teachers, students, and parents of the Hillsboro Elementary-Middle School community; and

WHEREAS, the dedication to academic excellence demonstrated by the fine individuals affiliated with Hillsboro Elementary-Middle School is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we congratulate Hillsboro Elementary-Middle School on being named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education, salute the school's principal, Kari Miller, and the school's faculty, staff, and students for their dedication to the highest tenets of education, and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.